

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (original) A fermentation process for the production of a desired compound comprising cultivating a filamentous bacterial strain in a liquid fermentation medium, wherein the carbon containing nutrients and nitrogen containing nutrients are maintained at low concentrations in the fermentation medium.

2. (original) A fermentation process according to claim 1, wherein the concentration of the nitrogen containing nutrient in the medium is less than 0.5 g/l (expressed as gram of nitrogen per litre).

3. (currently amended) A fermentation process according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein the concentration of the carbon containing nutrient in the medium is less than 5 g/l (expressed as gram of carbon per litre).

4. (currently amended) A fermentation process according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 3~~ claim 1, wherein a feed comprising carbon containing nutrients and nitrogen containing nutrients is supplied to the medium and wherein the nutrients in the feed are in such a ratio that low concentrations of both carbon and nitrogen containing nutrients are maintained in the culture.

5. (currently amended) A fermentation process of ~~any one of claims 1 to 4~~ claim 1, wherein the feed is supplied to the medium via more than one subfeed and wherein each subfeed comprises nitrogen containing nutrients, carbon containing nutrients or a combination of nitrogen and carbon containing nutrients.

6. (currently amended) A fermentation process according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 4~~ claim 1, wherein the amount of oxygen in the medium is between 20 and 70% of air saturation.

7. (original) A fermentation process according to claim 6, wherein the amount of oxygen in the medium is between 30 and 60% of air saturation.

8. (currently amended) A process according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 7~~ claim 1, wherein the bacteria are of the family of *Actinomycetes*.

9. (original) A process according to any claim 8, wherein the bacteria are of the genus *Streptomyces*.

10. (original) A process according to claim 9, wherein the bacteria are *Streptomyces natalensis* or *Streptomyces gilvosporeus* and wherein the desired compound is natamycin.

11. (currently amended) A fermentation process according to ~~any one of claim 1 to 10~~ claim 1, wherein the carbon containing nutrient is for more than 50% soybean oil (calculated as gram of carbon) and the nitrogen containing nutrient is for more than 50% ammonia (calculated as gram of nitrogen).